

Talk it Over

Discussion Guide
September 27 – Passionate
ACTS 2:38-47

#signsofhope

Welcome: This is our third week walking through the three key characteristics Jesus calls every follower of Jesus to embody. God wants us to be brave, to be passionate, and to be humble. Today we will talk about the second of these characteristics: 'passionate.'

Theme: A lot of people are passionate about a lot of things.

It seems like every person is passionate about something. Some people are passionate about sports, while others might be passionate about cooking. When people are devoted to something and become passionate about that, they literally change. Their time is altered, the way they live their lives, and the things that they invest in are all transformed.

Talk It Over: Are you passionate about anything?

Background: Jesus' disciples were told by Jesus to go back to Jerusalem after he went up into heaven. They were told to wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit. So they locked themselves away in a room in Jerusalem and waited for 40 days. Then the room filled with a loud wailing sound like a great wind, and people had what seemed to be fire over their heads. One by one, they began to preach and speak in languages they had never spoken in before. They went into the crowded streets of Jerusalem and told the story of Jesus to people from all over the world. At the end of Peter's message they said, "what should we do?" This is the story of what happened next:

Read: Acts 2:38

Idea: Jesus invites us to be passionate in a new way. We are to change our hearts and lives. Peter does not offer a subtle invitation. He does not present a low-ball offer. He asks people to go 'all-in' and to literally redirect their passions and inner being. Peter's promise is God will work within.

Talk it over: Are you passionate for Jesus? How do you hear the instructions "change your hearts and lives"?

Read: Acts 2:39-41

Idea: God uses passionate believers to bring new people into community.

Can you imagine the cheering that took place when three thousand people stepped up to be baptized? But, one important phrasing in scripture is that "God brought about three thousand people into community." It wasn't Peter who brought them in. Yes, he spoke from his heart, but God brought the people into the community of faith.

Talk it over: How does it change how you live knowing it is God who initiates people into community?

Read: Acts 2:42-45

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Idea: People who are passionate like Jesus do everything out of love.

The Bible describes a people who are 'sold-out' for Jesus. It tells us that the people shared everything and were led in every decision they made by love. This is what we're called to do as well.

Talk it over: Do you think that the church today could be described in the same words as the Acts 2 church? How so? And, how not?

Read: Acts 2:46-47

Idea: God is inviting you to connect with others in community that is open to growing.

Though it may seem like the community that God created must have immediately become a closed circle of intimate friendships, that's not what the Bible describes here.

Talk it over: How are you connecting with others in community like the first church did?

Pray: Share prayer requests & Share praise reports.

NEXTWEEK: Our second message about being 'passionate' in the way Jesus calls us to!